

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 09945 031041Z

17/44

ACTION IO-13

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P 021455Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0262
INFO USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 3782

CONFIDENTIAL VIENNA 9945

STADIS//////////

CORRECTED COPY (PARA 2, LINE 1)

(USUN TAKE FOR 1ST TIME)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN AU
SUBJECT: GOA VIEWS ON ELECTION OF NEXT UN SECRETARY GENERAL

1. I SAW FONMIN PAHR TODAY (DECEMBER 2) AT HIS REQUEST
REGARDING ELECTION OF NEXT UN SECRETARY GENERAL WHICH
SCHEDULED BEGIN DECEMBER 3. PAHR INDICATED THAT WHILE
GOA WAS CONFIDENT THAT WALDHEIM WOULD BE EVENTUALLY
REELECTED THERE WAS SOME GOA CONCERN THAT ELECTION
MANEUVERING RELATING TO HIS REELECTION MIGHT CONVEY FALSE
IMPRESSION THAT WALDHEIM OWED HIS RECONFIRMATION IN OFFICE
LARGELY TO USSR HELP. FOR OPTICAL REASONS GOA WOULD
CLEARLY LIKE TO AVOID THIS DEVELOPMENT, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

2. ACCORDING TO PAHR, AUSTRIANS ANTICIPATE THAT FIRST
ROUND OF VOTING WILL BE INCONCLUSIVE. USSR AND PRC WILL
PROBABLY CAST NEGATIVE VOTES AGAINST THIRD WORLD CANDIDATE
(ECHEVERRIA) AND WALDHEIM RESPECTIVELY. SUCH DEADLOCK
IN SECURITY COUNCIL COULD ENCOURAGE OTHER PERSONALITIES
FROM LDCS TO OFFER THEMSELVES AS SERIOUS CANDIDATES.
REPEATED VOTES MIGHT THEN BECOME NECESSARY WITH USSR
CONTINUOUSLY BLOCKING CANDIDATES FROM LDCS UNTIL
WALDHEIM REELECTED. FROM AUSTRIAN VIEWPOINT SUCH
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STRUGGLE WHEN FINALLY RESOLVED, WOULD BE BAD OPTICALLY

SINCE IT WOULD SUGGEST RENEWAL OF SECRETARY GENERAL'S
MANDATE MADE ONLY POSSIBLE THANKS TO VETOES OF USSR.

3. PAHR NOTED THAT USG IS NO DOUBT ALSO COGNIZANT OF
POSSIBLE VOTING SCENARIO AS RELATED ABOVE AND ADVERSE
IMPACT SUCH SCENARIO MIGHT HAVE ON AUTHORITY AND PRESTIGE
OF INCOMBENT SECRETARY GENERAL. PAHR CONCLUDED WITH
EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT WESTERN MEMBERS OF SECURITY
COUNCIL, PARTICULARLY PERMANENT MEMBERS, COULD IN EFFECT
DEVELOP SCENARIO WHICH WOULD COUNTER WHAT FELT TO BE
SOVIET GAME PLAN.

4. I INDICATED THAT GOA VIEWS ON SUBJECT WOULD BE
CONVEYED EXPEDITIOUSLY TO WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK, THAT
USG WAS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT ELECTING BEST AVAILABLE
CANDIDATE TO OFFICE OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL, AND THAT
U.S. MISSION IN NEW YORK HAS NO DOUBT BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH
WITH OTHER FRIENDLY MISSIONS, INCLUDING PROBABLY AUSTRIANS,
CONCERNING APPROPRIATE TACTICS REGARDING ELECTION PROCEDURE.
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